

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 12, 2000 (BOS Mtg. 12/19/00)

TO: York County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Daniel M. Stuck, County Administrator

SUBJECT: Six-Year Secondary Road Improvement Program—FY2001-02 through FY2006-07

ISSUE

Every year the County must review and adopt a priority listing for the use of the secondary road improvement funds allocated to York County over the next six years. The Code of Virginia requires that public comment be solicited through a duly advertised public hearing jointly conducted by the Board of Supervisors and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). Following the public hearing, the Board recommends a priority listing to VDOT.

CONSIDERATIONS

1. The six-year funding window allows projects to be prioritized such that engineering and right-of-way acquisition can proceed in advance of construction funding. In this manner, projects move through the program in a logical pattern that provides the often long lead times necessary to undertake significant improvements.

Over the six-year funding period, VDOT estimates that approximately \$14.5 million will be available for improvements to the County's secondary road system. Annual allocations are projected to be between \$1.9 and \$2.7 million.

2. The program proposed for the next six years resulted from discussions between County and VDOT staff. No projects from last year's plan have been completed or are under construction. Consequently, this year's proposed plan is almost identical to the plan adopted last year. The proposed plan includes sixteen projects, fifteen of which have been carried over from last year's program. The one new project that has been added is Russell Lane, which is an unpaved road in the Tabb area proposed to be paved through the County's Dirt Street Improvement Program. The purpose of this program, which is administered by the County's Department of General Services, is to improve private unimproved roads so that they may be included in the VDOT State Secondary Road System. Russell Lane is 0.20 mile in length and serves six single-family homes.
3. A second potential new project is Newman Road (Route 646) in the upper County. This road was deleted from the plan two years ago because of its relatively high cost (\$2.3 million) and relatively low traffic volumes. Last year the Board elected not to reinstate Newman Road in the secondary road plan but asked VDOT to evaluate this road for less costly spot safety improvements. Since then VDOT has developed a project to improve a 0.6-mile segment of Newman Road that includes a sharp bend in the road. The estimated cost of the project, as with the previous project, is \$2.3 million. This project was discussed at the Board's October 24 work-session on transportation issues, and the Board indicated that it would take up this issue when it reviews the full plan. Accordingly, VDOT has included Newman Road in the proposed plan for the Board's consideration. It is my opinion, however, that little has changed in the two years since I first recommended deletion of Newman Road from the plan: The road still carries relatively low traffic

volumes and, although the scope of the project has been scaled back, the cost is still as high as it was originally.

4. The York County Transportation Safety Commission reviewed the proposed project listing at its regular meeting on September 11 and voted to recommend the proposed plan to the Board of Supervisors, including Newman Road, for which the Commission recommended a project ranking of 14th on the list. Because the Russell Lane project was a late addition, it was not reviewed by the Transportation Safety Commission.

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

The Code of Virginia requires that the Planning Commission find that public improvements, including roads, be in conformance with the County's Comprehensive Plan before public funds are expended on such improvements. The Planning Commission considered the proposed plan at its November 8 meeting and received public comment. Three citizens addressed the Commission, one of whom inquired about the effect of the Lakeside Drive project on his property and another of whom asked about the proposed realignment of Burts Road. The third citizen voiced a safety concern about the intersection of Dare Road and Lakeside Drive and was referred to the County's Transportation Safety Commission. The Planning Commission then voted 7:0 to recommend approval of the plan as proposed. In so doing, the Commission also found that the projects are in conformance with the Comprehensive Plan.

Because the Russell Lane project was a late addition, it was not reviewed by the Planning Commission at its November 8 meeting. The Commission will review the project at its regular meeting on December 13.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR RECOMMENDATION

There appear to be three issues that the Board needs to decide with regard to the Secondary Road Plan:

1. Should all the projects approved last year remain in the plan and in the same priority?
2. Should Russell Lane be added and, if so, in what priority?
3. Should Newman Road be added and, if so, in what priority?

At the October 24 work session the Board was requested to notify staff of any additional projects for consideration. Staff has not received any feedback since then, so it appears that there are no potential additions other than Russell Lane and Newman Road.

Nothing has occurred in the past year to alter the respective merits of the projects approved in last year's plan, so I recommend that they all remain in the plan. The Dirt Street Improvement Program is a worthy program, and Russell Lane is a worthy project that will significantly improve the quality of life for its residents. As for the Newman Road project, I still believe it is too expensive for the amount of traffic the road carries. Therefore, I recommend that the Board adopt the projects and priority rankings contained in proposed Resolution R00-203. This listing includes the fifteen priority rankings approved by the Board last year, as well as Russell Lane. It does not include Newman Road.

York County Board of Supervisors

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- Excerpts of unapproved Planning Commission minutes, November 8, 2000
- VDOT Secondary Road Construction Summary, FY2001-02 through FY2006-07
- VDOT Construction Budget, FY2001-02
- Six-Year Secondary Road Construction Plan Comparison and Status Summary
- Maps of proposed projects
- Proposed Resolution R00-203

Copy to: Quintin D. Elliott, Resident Engineer, Virginia Department of Transportation